(b) As for the phenomenon of global warming resulting in melting of glaciers, the scientific studies have revealed that glaciers of Himalayan region are passing through a phase of recession (shrinking) as is the case with the glaciers elsewhere in the world at variable rates due to a variety of reasons like macro and micro climate, reduction in snow fall, and size of glaciers. Cracks in a glacier are developed due to stress build up within a glacier.

(c) The scientific studies do not suggest threat of water shortage in the rivers in the foreseeable future.

(d) Since the recession of glaciers is a natural process and is not attributable to any one meteorological parameter, the components of mitigation strategy comprise monitoring of the glaciers, expansion and diversification of the meteorological observation network, reduction in deforestation, and preservation of ecology in high altitudes. The G.B. Pant Institute of Himalayan Environment and Development (GBPIHED) has been conducting studies on Gangotri glacier systems for the last seven years, which do not indicate significant melt water discharge. The State Government of Uttaranchal has set up an Expert Committee for glacier conservation measures.

Environmental impact Assessment notification

3086. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that environmental groups and activists have sought scrapping the draft Environmental Impact Assessment Notification;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the environmental groups and activists have demanded another round of consultation with all concerned; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (d) In response to the public notice issued on 15th September, 2005 inviting responses from the public at large on the Draft Environmental Impact Assessment Notification, nearly 50 NGO's and individuals had furnished their views. Prior to issue of the public notice of 15th September, 2005 formal consultations had also been held with NGOs' industry associations,

research institutions, Central Ministries, and State Government. The concerns express by all stakeholders have been duly considered in the Draft Final Notification.

Polavaram Project

3087. SHRI SURENDRA LATH:
MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have given environmental clearance to multi purpose Polavaram Project of Andhra Pradesh;

(b)jf so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government had received any representation from the Government of Orissa about the project; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken report of the representation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) The environmental clearance to Polavaram multipurpose project was accorded on 25th October 2005.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Government of Orissa has raised objection against the submergence of areas in Orissa. The objection of Govt, of Orissa has been referred to Govt, of Andhra Pradesh for comments.

Chemical fluids released from big industries

†3088. SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the environment gets affected due to the release of chemical fluids from the big industries like steel, in the forest areas of the country and thus making water of the rivers not fit for human consumption;

(b) if so, the names of the areas where this problem has been experienced;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.